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ON HIS FIRST DAY HE MANAGED TO CAUSE QUITE THE COMMOTION AT SCHOOL, I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHAT GOT ME SO INTERESTED IN HIM BACK THEN. HE WOULD SPEAK HIS MIND, AND WOULDN'T CARE WHO HE INSULTED. QUITE A CHARMER, HE WAS SMART IN THAT DORKY SORT OF WAY THAT I ADORE, BUT HE WAS ALSO VERY ATHLETIC, SOMETHING MOST OF MY ROBOTICS-CLUB-PEERS WEREN'T. BACK THEN I DIDN'T KNOW THAT I WAS GAY, MUCH LESS THAT HE WAS MY FIRST CRUSH; YOU REALLY DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO THOSE THINGS BEING A DORK WHO STILL COLLECTED TRADING CARDS... WELL; AT LEAST I DIDN'T...

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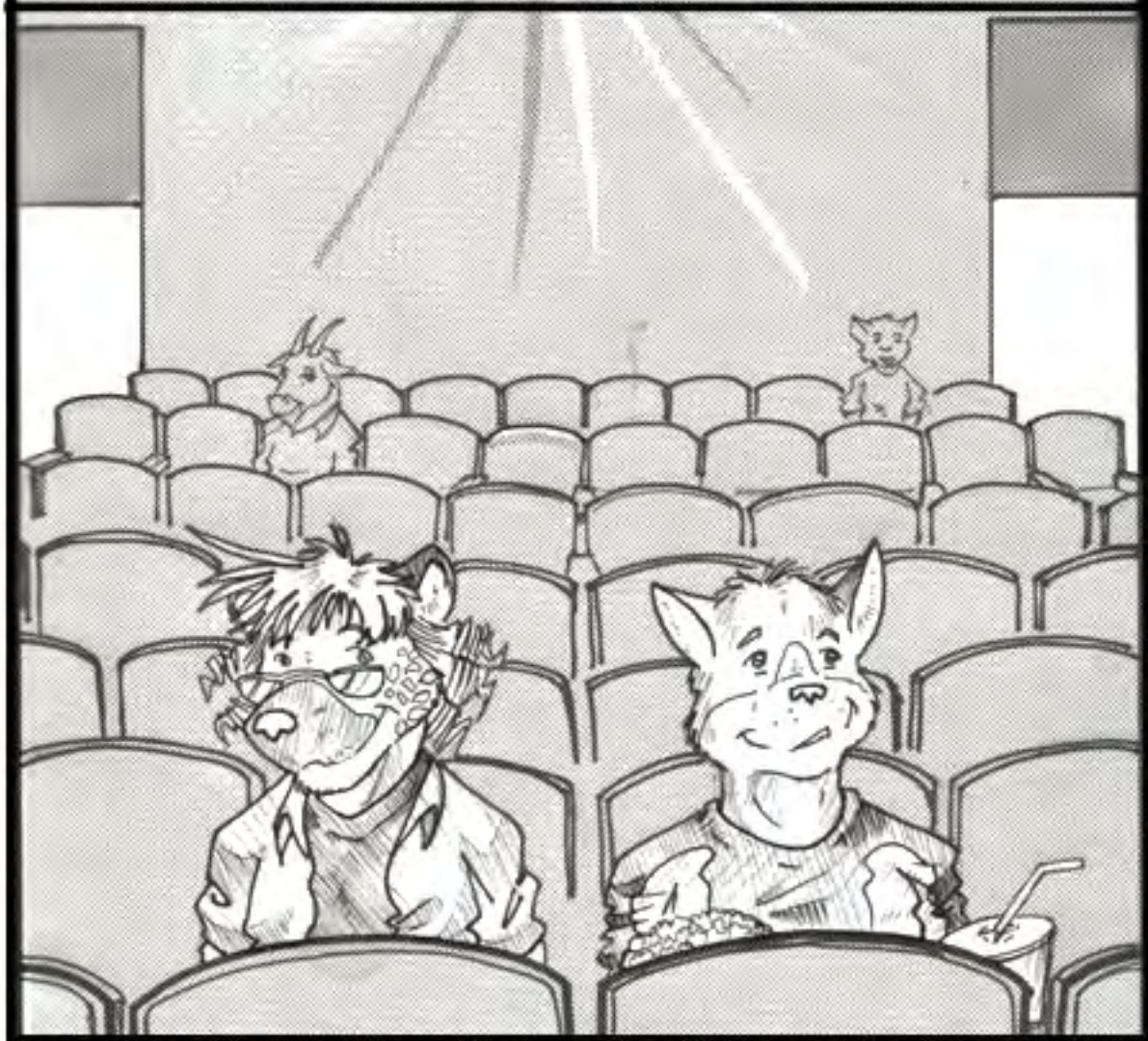
THAT WAS QUITE THE STUNT YOU PULLED BACK THERE, TAKES A LOT OF CONFIDENCE TO DO THAT YOU KNOW...
YEAH WELL, MOST TEACHERS ASSUME THAT BECAUSE WE'RE YOUNG WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING; SOMEONE'S GOT TO TEACH THEM A LESSON.
I WILL NOT CON
I GUESS SO, BUT IT'S YOUR FIRST DAY HERE, YOU'LL BE LABELED A TROUBLEMAKER FROM NOW ON...

IT WAS WELL WORTH IT; BESIDES, YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THAT IT WAS FUN WATCHING HER SQUIRM...
HEHEHE, YEAH, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE HER THE SAME WAY AGAIN, THE LOOK ON HER FACE! SHE WANTED TO STRANGLE YOU THAT'S FOR SURE...
HEY! DO YOU WANT TO GO SEE A MOVIE?
MARF?
YEAH WELL I'M NEW TO THE CITY AS WELL, AND SINCE YOU'RE THE FIRST GUY I'VE MET SO FAR, I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD SHOW ME AROUND... OH YEAH! I FORGOT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF... MY NAME IS CAR... CAR HAYNE... SO... MARFY DOG? WHAT DO YOU SAY?
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN! AND MY NAME'S HUSKY

LOOKING BACK I REALIZE THAT I WAS MUCH MORE INNOCENT AND NAIVE THAN NOW; AS WE BOTH SAT THERE I ENJOYED THE MOVIE, WHILE HE KEPT HIS EYES ON ME. HECK IT WASN'T UNTIL A FEW MONTHS AFTERWARDS THAT I RELIZED HE DIDN'T LIKE POPCORN AT ALL, BUT HE KEPT REACHING FOT IT ANYWAYS.



IN ANY CASE, I ENJOYED HIS COMPANY AS MUCH AS HE DID MINE, AND THAT SAME THEATRE SAW US IN IT'S AISLES MANY A TIMES, BUT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, WAS THE ONLY TIME I NEVER FOUND MYSELF STARING AT HIM OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYE. I DON'T REMEMBER IF IT WAS BECAUSE I HAD JUST MET HIM, IF IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS NERVOUS, OR IF IT JUST WAS A REALLY GOOD MOVIE AND I ACTUALLY PAID ATTENTION. I DON'T THINK HE EVEN CARED WHAT MOVIE WE WERE WATCHING; HE THEN LATER CONFESSED THAT HE WAS A TAD BIT NERVOUS HIMSELF ABOUT NOT SCARING ME AWAY HE WAS AFTER ALL THE NEW KID, AND I HAD BEEN THE ONLY ONE WHO APROACHED HIM AS A FRIEND THAT DAY, AND ALL THAT MONTH.

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IN THE FOLLOWING MONTHS, WE GREW MORE AND MORE ATTACHED. WE WENT OUT TOGETHER, AND SPENT A LOT OF OUR TIME WITH EACHOTHER. OF COURSE WE WOULD ONLY ADMIT TO BEING FRIENDS, EVEN THOUGH BOTH OF US FELT MORE ABOUT EACHOTHER. WE JUST WEREN'T READY TO SAY ANYTHING AND I SUPPOSE WE WERE BOTH AFRAID THAT THE OTHER WOULD REACT BADLY, WE DID AFTER ALL MEET AT SCHOOL, WHICH WAS CHRISTIAN, AND FOR ALL PURPOSES REPUBLICAN ORIENTED TOO. BUT AT LEAST THESE LAST FEW MONTHS OF OUR SENIOR YEAR WERE WORTH FAR MORE THAN THE REST OF MY YEARS THERE, AND HIS AT HIS MANY OTHER SCHOOLS.

HIM AND I WERE PARTNERS IN CRIME, WE STUCK TO EACHOTHER AND MADE OUR OWN LITTLE PROTESTS ON CLASSES LIKE P.E. BUT SECRETLY WERE NONE MORE DELIGHTED TO STARE AT THE OTHER BOYS RUNNING AROUND OF COURSE WE WOULDN'T ADMIT TO THIS, BUT I'M SURE HE CAUGHT ME STARING PLENTY OF TIMES, AND I CAUGHT HIM TOO

IRONICALLY, IT WAS NOT UNTIL WE WENT ON AN OVERNIGHT FIELD-TRIP FROM SCHOOL THAT WE CAME OUT TO EACHOTHER. WE WERE BOTH UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE GOTTEN THE SPOT ON THE HOTEL FLOOR TO SLEEP ON. I SUPPOSE THAT I WAS THE CLOSENESS THAT WAS TOO MUCH TO BEAR. I COULD TELL HE WAS NERVOUS, AND IT WOULD BE LIE TO SAY THAT I WASN'T. HE WAS THE ONE TO SAY THE FIRST THING, HE NUDGED ME AND ASKED IF WAS AWAKE. THEN ASKED IF I COULD KEEP A SECRET, AND THAT HE WOULDN'T HATE ME IF I DIDNT' WANT TO BE HIS FRIEND ANYMORE TOMORROW. CALL IT INTUITION, BUT I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS GONNA SAY. INSTEAD OF SAYING ANYTHING I JUST HUGGED HIM AND NUZZLED HIS NECK. JUST LIKE I KNEW WHAT HE WAS THINKING, I'M SURE HE KNEW WHAT WAS IN MY MIND.

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THE FUNNY THING WAS THAT COMING CLOSE TO EACHOTHER GAVE US LIBERTIES THAT WE NEVER HAD BEFORE; CLOWNING AROUND ABOUT BEING GAY, AND FINALLY BEING ABLE TO APRECIATE THE OTHER BOYS IN THE LOCKER WITHOUT THAT HORRID FEAR THAT WAS THERE BEFORE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SOMETIMES EVEN ENCOURAGED ME TO DO THINGS THAT I WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO AFRAID TO DO OTHERWISE, SOMETHING THAT I THOUGHT WAS FUNNY; SINCE I DID CONSIDER HIM MY BOYFRIEND. THESE WERE THE DAYS WHEN HE AND I CAME THE CLOSEST, SADLY THEY WERE THE LAST DAYS OF OUR LAST YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND IN THE BACKBURNER OF OUR MINDS THERE WAS THE QUESTION OF WHERE WE WOULD END UP AFTERWARDS. HE WAS A BRILLIANT STUDENT, AND HAD NO PROBLEM GETTING INTO ALL THE UNIVERSITIES THAT HE APPLIED TO... I ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS LIMITED TO UNIVERSITIES FAR AWAY, OR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (YEAH THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T STUDY KIDS). BUT FOR THE TIME BEING, WE DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION TO IT AND WERE CONTENT WITH HARRASING OUR FAVORITE BLONDE.

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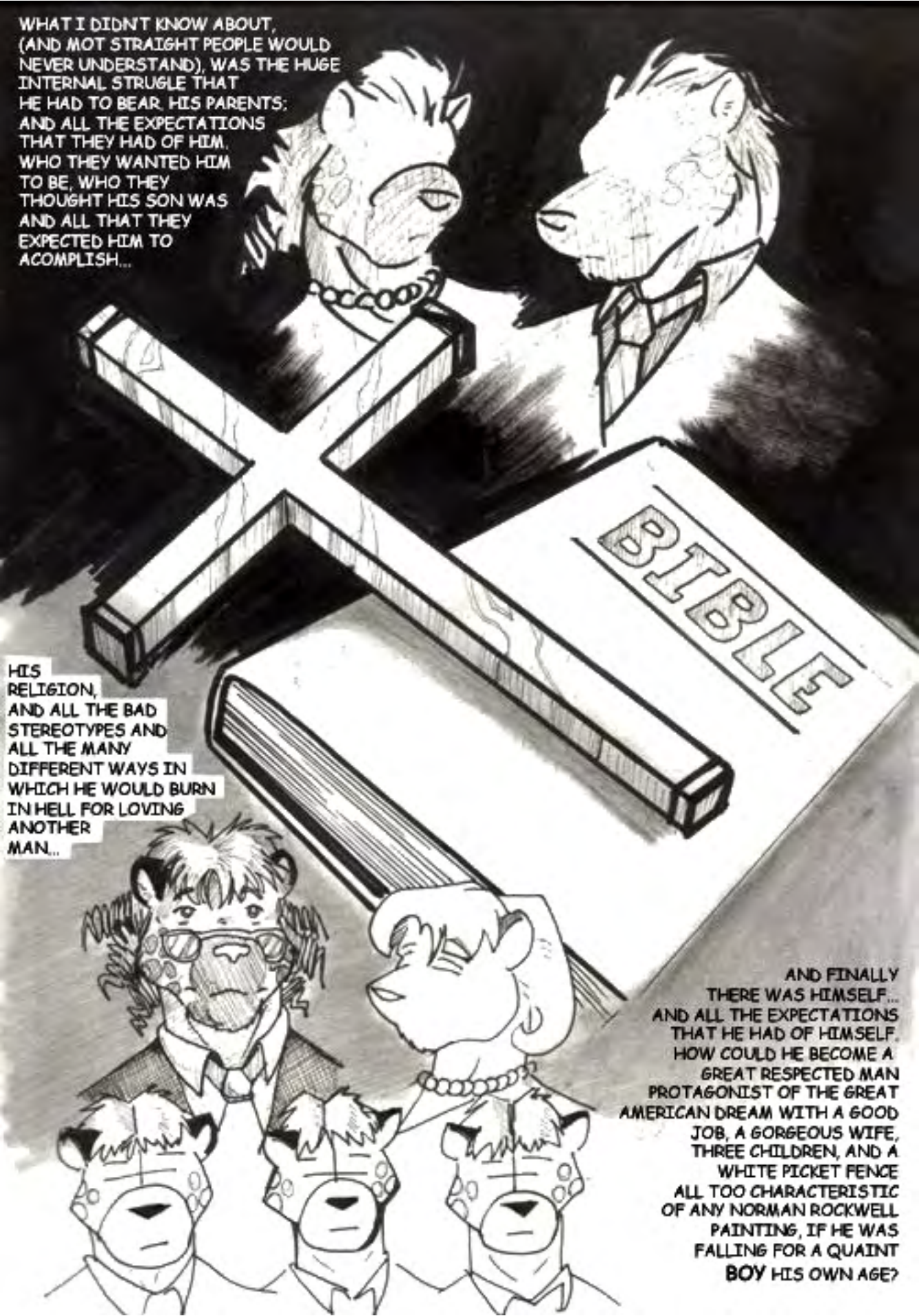
WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT, (AND MOT STRAIGHT PEOPLE WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND), WAS THE HUGE INTERNAL STRUGLE THAT HE HAD TO BEAR. HIS PARENTS; AND ALL THE EXPECTATIONS THAT THEY HAD OF HIM, WHO THEY WANTED HIM TO BE, WHO THEY THOUGHT HIS SON WAS AND ALL THAT THEY EXPECTED HIM TO ACOMPLISH...
BIBLE
HIS RELIGION, AND ALL THE BAD STEREOTYPES AND ALL THE MANY DIFFERENT WAYS IN WHICH HE WOULD BURN IN HELL FOR LOVING ANOTHER MAN...
AND FINALLY THERE WAS HIMSELF... AND ALL THE EXPECTATIONS THAT HE HAD OF HIMSELF. HOW COULD HE BECOME A GREAT RESPECTED MAN PROTAGONIST OF THE GREAT AMERICAN DREAM WITH A GOOD JOB, A GORGEOUS WIFE, THREE CHILDREN, AND A WHITE PICKET FENCE ALL TOO CHARACTERISTIC OF ANY NORMAN ROCKWELL PAINTING, IF HE WAS FALLING FOR A QUAINT BOY HIS OWN AGE?

AND SO IN A VERY SHAKESPEAREAN TWIST OF FATE, HE FOUND HIMSELF ASKING THE QUESTION "To Be... or Not To Be". WOULD HE RATHER STAY NEARBY AND PURSUE A LIFE WITH A CRAZY DOG? RISK THE CHANCE OF HIS PARENTS DISOWNING HIM? AND WOULD THAT MAKE HIM HAPPY? WOULD THAT FEELING OF FREEDOM THAT HAD BEEN THERE FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS WOULD LAST? WAS IT WORTH THE RISK? OR COULD HE PULL IT OFF AND FAKE HIS WAY INTO BEING STRAIGHT AND FOLLOWING THOSE IDEALS THAT HE HAD BEEN RAISED WITH ALL HIS LIFE?... WELL THAT WAS THE QUESTION, AND AT THAT TIME, NOT EVEN I KNEW WHY HE MADE HIS CHOICE. ONE THING I'LL SAY THOUGH, IS THAT WHEN I HAD TO CHOSE, I REMEMBERED WHAT MY FRIEND SAID, AND HOW MUCH WISDOM THERE IS IN THOSE FEW WORDS: "A Lie is a Lie, and The Truth is Always better..."

I JUST WISH I COULD HAVE HELPED HIM MORE... I JUST WISH I COULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR HIM TO WANT TO STAY...

Queen - "Under Pressure"

BUT I WASN'T, AND OFF HE WENT TO BERKELEY, AND HERE I REMAINED IN L.A.

SOMETIMES I THINK THAT HE TOOK THE EASY WAY OUT, THAT HE CHOSE TO LEAVE AND YIELD TO EVERYONE AROUND HIM AND THEIR DEMANDS, AND I FELT BETRAYED BECAUSE IT WAS FOR HIM THAT I CHANGED WHO I WAS, AND IT WAS FOR HIM THAT I CAME OUT OF THE CLOSET. BUT IT WAS HE WHO QUICKLY WENT BACK IN WHEN THINGS GOT CHILLY.

ACTUALLY, I REMEMBER THE WEEK BEFORE AND AFTER GRADUATION, THE DAYS THAT WERE SUPPOSED TO BE SOME OF THE HAPPIEST MEMORIES IN LIFE, TURNED PRETTY SOUR. AFTER ALL, LOOSING HIM WAS TECHNICALLY LOOSING MY OTHER HALF; LOOSING THAT PART OF ME THAT ALLOWED ME TO BE STRONG AND PROUD OF I WAS. I'VE ALWAYS SAID THAT IF YOU DON'T DRAW STRENGHT FROM THE PERSON YOU LOVE, THEN YOU DON'T REALLY LOVE THEM, YOU JUST LIKE THEM.

IN ANY CASE, HE MOVED OUT, AND MOVED ON.

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